



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: News Directors
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FANS OPEN HEARTS, PURSES FOR BRUDDAH IZ SCULPTURE

HONOLULU – SEPTEMBER 8, 2003 – FANS OF ISRAEL “BRUDDAH IZ” KAMAKAWIWO‘OLE are coming to the rescue of a project to honor the late singer with a life-size bronze bust created by well-known sculptor Jan-Michelle Sawyer. The project had been stalled for lack of funds until earlier this year when Sawyer asked Councilmember Mike Gabbard to help. Although Sawyer is donating her time and a portion of the expenses of the \$40,000 sculpture, it was estimated approximately \$20,000 would need to be raised to pay for casting materials and work at the mainland foundry, the pedestal, a commemorative plaque, printing and programs for the dedication, and refreshments.

“I’ve always been a great fan of Bruddah Iz but I hadn’t heard of the effort to honor him with a sculpture until Jan-Michelle came to my office,” Gabbard said. “As soon as I got Marlene Kamakawiwo‘ole’s blessing, I set out to do whatever I could to ensure that one of Hawaii’s greatest sons would be appropriately honored – and in the place that meant so much to him: Wai‘anae.”

Over the next few weeks, Gabbard raised \$10,000 from local businesses, including \$5,000 from Ko Olina Charities and Ko Olina Resort Association, and donations from Waste Management, Inc., Gentry Homes Ltd., Schuler Homes, the *Honolulu Advertiser*, and Campbell Estate. Then, on August 28th, an article appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle describing the effort to “bring Bruddah Iz home.” The letters and checks began pouring in immediately from all over California, bringing in over \$2,000 and an outpouring love and emotion for Bruddah Iz expressed by those who wrote. Here’s a sampling:

“Love that man. His voice fills our home and cars.” (Lynne Brooks Keady, Menlo Park); “I read of your plight to get the bust of Israel back to Hawaii... As a former resident of Hawaii and a huge fan of Iz’s music I hope this check ... will help towards that goal.” (Hannah Ikeda, San Anselmo); “Iz – surely one of the sweetest voices in Heaven’s Choir!” (Glenn & Maria Carlson, San Francisco); “Good Luck with your efforts to place the “Iz” bust where it belongs. Rarely is there a day that I don’t play one of his CDs. Thank you for your efforts to honor this great talent.” (Peter Higbee, Guerneville); “God and his angels must be enjoying Iz music.” (Marie Bonilla, Sacramento).

The dedication ceremony is set for Saturday, September 20th from 2-4 p.m. at the Wai‘anae Neighborhood Community Center. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided.

Donations to cover the \$8,000 shortfall can be made at any City Bank branch or by sending a check to “The Friends of Bruddah Iz” at P.O. Box 2217, Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706.

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